Home Appliance *NewsLine*

An AHAM Bulletin to Editors

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FEBRUARY REFRIGERATOR SHIPMENTS STAND OUT IN SLOW MONTH FOR MAJOR APPLIANCES

CHICAGO -- February shipments of major home appliances totaled nearly 3.7 million units, but failed to reach the level of February 1989, the all-time industry record for the month, reports the Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers (AHAM).

Although shipments were down 7.7 percent, this was still the third best February in history.

While most products fell below their February 1989 shipment levels, three made noteworthy gains:

* Refrigerator shipments increased 6.5 percent to 487,000 units, which was the highest shipment of this product in any February.
* Gas range shipments rose 4.0 percent to 161,400 units.
* Dehumidifier shipments of 62,500 units showed a 36.2 percent increase, which, more than anything else, reflected the weakness of last February's shipment.

Consumer demand remained reassuring, however, for ranges, refrigerators, dishwashers and home laundry equipment — products that some in the industry refer to as core products. When considered together, shipments of these

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appliance categories were down only 3.0 percent in February, but up 0.6 percent overall since the start of the year.

Total shipments in 1990 are expected to decline by 1.2 percent to 48.2 million units from last year's level of 48.7 million.

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MAJOR HOME APPLIANCE INDUSTRY SHIPMENTS*, THOUSANDS OF UNITS
February, 1990

	FEBRUARY			CALENDAR YEAR TO DATE		
	1990	1989	% Change	1990	1989	% Change
ALL MAJOR APPLIANCES**	3,691.5	4,000.9	-7.7%	7,565.7	8,045.0	-6.0%
COOKING - TOTAL	1,049.8	1,270.2	-17.4%	2,278.2	2,660.4	-14.4%
ELECTRIC RANGES - TOTAL	224.6	224.2	0.2%	458.1	468.3	-2.2%
Free Standing	174.8	174.2	0.3%	351.7	366.8	-4.1%
Built-In	49.9	49.9	0.0%	106.4	101.5	4.8%
GAS RANGES - TOTAL	161.4	155.2	4.0%	346.1	313.2	10.5%
Free Standing	152.5	146.6	4.0%	327.2	296.1	10.5%
Built-In	8.9	8.5	4.7%	18.9	17.2	9.9%
MICROWAVE OVENS/RANGES***	675.5	904.5	-25.3%	1,497.6	1,906.4	-21.4%
HOME LAUNDRY - TOTAL	822.9	901.1	-8.7%	1,894.6	1,888.7	0.3%
AUTOMATIC WASHERS	479.6	509.3	-5.8%	1,090.3	1,061.9	2.7%
DRYERS - TOTAL	343.3	391.9	-12.4%	804.3	826.8	-2.7%
Electric	263.7	302.4	-12.8%	615.2	641.0	-4.0%
Gas	79.6	89.5	-11.1%	189.2	185.8	1.8%
KITCHEN CLEAN UP - TOTAL	649.2	689.2	-5.8%	1,336.9	1,425.0	-6.2%
DISPOSERS	359.8	380.3	-5.4%	721.5	771.5	-6.5%
DISHWASHERS - TOTAL	271.5	290.9	-6.7%	579.7	616.0	-5.9%
Built-In	254.8	272.4	-6.5%	541.5	573.8	-5.6%
Portable	16.8	18.5	-9.2%	38.3	42.2	-9.2%
COMPACTORS	17.8	18.0	-1.1%	35.6	37.4	-4.8%
FOOD PRESERVATION - TOTAL	567.6	545.2	4.1%	1,136.7	1,098.8	3.4%
REFRIGERATORS	487.0	457.4	6.5%	956.8	922.4	3.7%
FREEZERS - TOTAL	80.5	87.7	-8.2%	179.9	176.4	2.0%
Chest	41.8	48.4	-13.6%	92.5	93.7	-1.3%
Upright	38.7	39.3	-1.5%	87.4	82.7	5.7%
HOME COMFORT - TOTAL	602.1	595.1	1.2%	919.3	972.2	-5.4%
ROOM AIR CONDITIONERS	539.6	549.2	-1.7%	813.9	903.2	-9.9%
DEHUMIDIFIERS	62.5	45.9	36.2%	105.4	69.0	52.8%

* Domestic plus export shipments; includes both U.S. produced and imported products
** Numbers do not add because of overlapping product categories.
*** Includes microwave ovens and combination microwave ovens/ranges.